

2017-2018 Formative Assessment Grant Overview

<http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/formative-assessment-grant>

Vision and Purpose

Formative assessments and the use of their data to guide classroom instruction at the individual student level result in increased academic success. Indiana's Formative Assessment Grant provides funding to schools for formative assessment programs, tools, and professional development in order to increase data-driven instructional practices and enrich learning for all students.

Eligibility

- All Indiana public school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools (including choice schools)
- Students in Grades K-10

Note: Student numbers are capped at the corporation's official Pupil Enrollment Count for the prior school year. Official counts are necessary for funding approval, and use of the prior year's official counts allows for schools to receive funds closer to the beginning of the school year.

Allowable Uses of Funds

- Approved Math and/or English Language Arts formative assessment programs
Note: Visit the Formative Assessment Grant website (above) for the most updated list of approved assessment programs.
- Professional development to assist staff with formative assessment implementation and use of assessment data (*Note: Travel expenses are not included. Teacher stipends for off-hour trainings or substitute expenses are allowed.*)
- Diagnostic analysis of student performance
- Student performance reports and analysis for teachers and parents
- Differentiated learning tools for educators, students, and parents that support areas of instructional need

Funds must be encumbered by May 14, 2018.

Funds must be expensed by June 30, 2018.

Funding Allocations

The Indiana General Assembly allocated \$12 million for the 2017-18 Formative Assessment Grant. Funding is allotted per student, per assessment program (i.e., a student may receive funding for Math as well as for English Language Arts). The distribution algorithms are described below.

Allocation per Assessment	$\frac{\$12 \text{ million}}{\text{Total Number of Assessments (Math + ELA)}}$
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Allocation per Student	<i>(Allocation per Assessment) x (Number of Assessments)</i> <i>Note: The number of assessments is limited to 1 or 2 (Math and/or ELA)</i>
Allocation per Corporation	<i>Sum of All Student Allocations</i>

The estimated allocation per student per assessment (Math and English/Language Arts) for 2017-18 is \$7.00. Therefore, a student could receive \$7.00 for Math and \$7.00 for English/Language Arts for a total of \$14.00 per student. The actual amount may be higher or lower based on the total number of participants.

Local Contracts

Corporations and Schools will enter into local contracts with assessment program vendors from the approved assessment program list. Corporations are welcome to enter into a contract and begin use of formative assessments before the funding is distributed; however, the corporation would be responsible for any costs incurred above the final distribution amount.

Flexibility

Corporations and Schools have the flexibility to determine details regarding the use of grant funds. Corporations may determine:

- What schools are participating
- What grade levels are participating
- What content areas (Math and/or English Language Arts) are being assessed
- What assessment programs are being used for each school/grade level
- When the programs are in use (i.e., when to enter into the contract within the school year, when testing windows occur, etc.)

Professional Development

Corporations are encouraged to provide professional development opportunities to assist teachers in understanding what authentic formative assessment is, collecting and analyzing formative assessment data, and using data to inform instructional practices. Professional development opportunities may include, but are not limited to:

- Professional development offered by the Indiana Department of Education encompassing formative assessment
- Professional development opportunities created by the corporation encompassing formative assessment and the use of its data
- Professional development opportunities from assessment program providers regarding program use, reports, analyses, and differentiated instruction
- Professional development opportunities to assist with individualizing/differentiating instruction based on formative assessment data.